



How many of your Facebook friends have you seen lately? For Rob Jones, who ¹ *is currently meeting* every single friend on his Facebook page, the answer could soon be 700.

His aim to raise money for a children's charity means he has already come face-to-face with 123 internet 'friends' in seven countries, some of whom he has never met before.

² *He takes* a photo for his Facebook page with everyone he meets, and persuades them to give to his charity, and he has already raised more than £3,000.

He hopes to have met all 700 within three years, travelling thousands of miles to thirty countries including New Zealand, on the other side of the world, in the process.

People often say that Facebook friends aren't real friends. But Rob met his Polish girlfriend online and ³ *they've now been* together for three years. He says ⁴ *this proves* that the internet is a powerful tool.

'I'm reuniting with friends, and in the process ⁵ *I'm learning* a lot about myself. I now have good friends in people I have never met before this.'

'Everyone has been great so far; ⁶ *I generally spend* a day with them and they choose what we do.'

His adventure has taken him across Europe, visiting England, Scotland (top photo), Poland (photo in the centre), Finland, Germany and Switzerland, and ⁷ *he's also just visited* a distant relative in the USA (bottom photo).

Why is Rob Jones trying to meet all 700 of his Facebook friends?

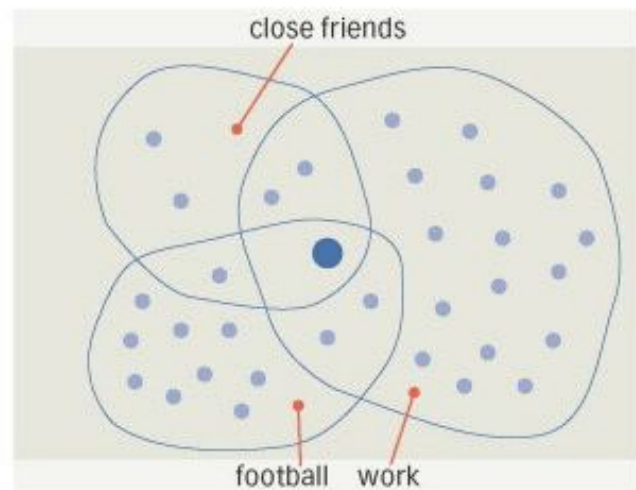
Choose the correct options to complete the questions.

- 1 What *is Rob trying / does Rob try* to do?
- 2 How many friends *does he meet / has he met* so far?
- 3 Why *does he take / is he taking* a photo of everyone he meets?
- 4 Why does Rob believe that the internet *has been / is* a good way of making friends?
- 5 What *is Rob learning / does Rob learn* from the process?
- 6 Who *usually decides / is deciding* what to do when Rob meets a Facebook friend?
- 7 Which countries *does he visit / has he visited*?

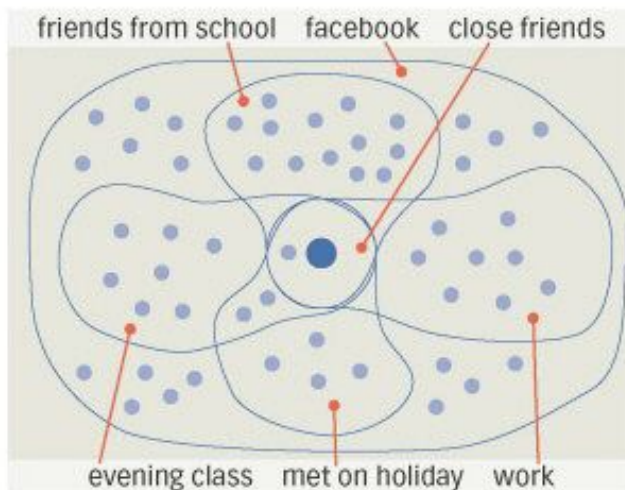
ANSWERS

- 1 is Rob trying
- 2 has he met
- 3 does he take/is he taking
- 4 is
- 5 is Rob learning
- 6 usually decides
- 7 has he visited

1.1))) Listen to two friends, Sarah and Josh, talking about their friendships. Which diagram represents each person's friendship groups?



1 _____



2 _____

Tell your partner which diagram is more like your friendship groups. Explain why.

TASK Draw a diagram of your friendship groups, like the ones in exercise 5a. Talk to a partner about some of the people in it. Ask each other questions to get more information.

S = Sarah, J = Josh

S So, how many friends would you say you had?

J Well, it all depends what you mean by friends, doesn't it?

I mean, I get on well with a lot of people at work – that's maybe twenty people I'd say were friends ...

S Do you socialize outside work?

J Oh, yes. Maybe not that often, but we meet up after work from time to time ... Then there are the friends I play football with. I guess I don't have a lot in common with them apart from football, but I'd say they were friends all the same.

S But how many of those friends would you ask to help you out if you were in trouble?

J Ah, well, that's different. Friends you can really trust ... there aren't so many of those. Maybe five or six?

S And what about online? Do you have a lot of Facebook friends?

J No, not really. I can't be bothered with it, really. I guess I've got about fifteen to twenty, but I don't use it much. What about you?

S Oh, I have a lot of friends on Facebook, about 150, I think.

J 150?! Do you keep in touch with all of them?

S Yes, well, kind of – you know, we send the occasional message to each other.

J And have you actually met all of them, face-to-face?

S No. Some of them are people I've met on holiday or something, and we wanted to keep in touch. Some of them are old friends from school. But there are quite a lot of friends who are people I've never actually met at all.

I just made friends with them on Facebook.

J I don't see how you can be friends with someone you've never met.

S Of course you can. I probably chat to some of them more than you talk to your friends from football!

J Hmm. And what about in the real world? How many friends do you have in real life?

S Well, a lot of the friends I see often in real life are on Facebook, too, actually. I've got friends from work like you, and then there are the people in my evening class. I'm learning German ...

J And what about really close friends?

S I've only got a couple of really close friends that I share everything with. Actually, if I'm honest, recently just one, because I've fallen out with one of my best friends. We're not speaking to each other at the moment.

J Did you have a big argument?

S Not exactly. It all started when ...

Work with a partner. Look at the verbs/verb phrases and decide if they are positive (P) or negative (N).

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | get on (well) (with someone) | _____ |
| 2 | meet up (with someone) | _____ |
| 3 | have a lot in common (with someone) | _____ |
| 4 | fall out (with someone) | _____ |
| 5 | help (someone) out | _____ |
| 6 | trust (someone) | _____ |
| 7 | get/keep in touch (with someone) | _____ |
| 8 | make friends (with someone) | _____ |
| 9 | have an argument (with someone) | _____ |

1.3)))

Complete the statements using the correct form of the verbs/verb phrases in exercise 6a.

- 1 I often _____ groups of friends in the evening.
- 2 You don't need to _____ someone to be friends. It's fine to have different interests.
- 3 I _____ most people I know. There aren't many people I don't like.
- 4 A really good friend is someone you can call at midnight and ask them to _____.
- 5 The friends you _____ at school are often friends for life.
- 6 I'm always pleased when someone I haven't heard from in ages _____.
- 7 I'm quite easy-going. I rarely _____ my friends.
- 8 I'm not speaking to my sister at the moment – we've _____. It seems a bit childish.
- 9 I can _____ my closest friend with all my secrets.



ANSWERS/AUDIOSCRIPT 1.3

- 1 I often meet up with groups of friends in the evening.
- 2 You don't need to have a lot in common with someone to be friends. It's fine to have different interests.
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Why spending's #trending



- 1 What is happening in the photos?
- 2 What does it mean if something is 'trending'?
- 3 Why might spending be trending?

1.4))) Read the statements. Then listen again and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false statements.

- 1 The expression *Black Friday* has been used more than two billion times on Twitter recently.
- 2 *Black Friday* only happens in the USA.
- 3 Some people have queued overnight.
- 4 Shoppers around the world spent more than 11 billion dollars on *Black Friday* last year.
- 5 There have been five injuries in the last few years on *Black Friday*.

ANSWERS

- 1 False: more than two million
- 2 False: in the UK, Australia, South America, etc.
- 3 True
- 4 False: shoppers in the USA
- 5 False: over 50

P = Presenter

P And now, in our regular look at what's trending on social media, and why: right now, it's something called *Black Friday*. This term has been used more than two million times on Twitter in the last 48 hours. *Black Friday* is the fourth Friday in November, when the shops have amazing special offers in the run up to Christmas. Many items are half price or two for the price of one, and it's now the busiest shopping day of the year in some countries. It started in the USA, but it's spreading round the world now, to the UK, Australia and more recently to shoppers in Brazil, Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Many shops have been opening very early in the morning, and in some places people have been so keen to get a bargain that they have started queuing outside the shops the night before. Last year it is estimated that shoppers in the USA spent over eleven billion dollars on *Black Friday*. However, while you may get a good discount on your purchases, you should be careful. Firstly, there's the real danger of spending more than you intended or can really afford, buying things on credit, and owing a lot of money. And secondly, it may be dangerous, with over fifty injuries in the past five years, caused by people fighting over things in the sales.

customer consumer deals discounts half-price
items purchaser purchases special offers
two for the price of one



- 1 What have you bought recently that was a *bargain*?
- 2 Do you look for *special offers* such as *two for the price of one* in the supermarket? How important are they to you in choosing your *purchases*?
- 3 Have you ever bought something you didn't need because it was a good *deal*? If so, give an example.
- 4 Would you be willing to queue for hours to get a good *discount*? For what kind of *item*?

1.5))) Listen to a radio interview with a supporter of *Buy Nothing Day*. Which of the following points does he mention?

Buy Nothing Day is important because it might encourage people not to ...

- 1 use shopping as a kind of therapy.
- 2 owe a lot of money.
- 3 support big companies.
- 4 consume more than their fair share of the world's resources.
- 5 buy goods where the workers are badly paid.
- 6 buy goods with unnecessary packaging.

P = Presenter, I = Interviewer, L = Lewis

P Let's go over to a busy shopping centre and find out what shoppers there think.

I Today is one of the busiest shopping days of the year, and this shopping centre is full of people shopping. However, today something different is happening here. It's *Buy Nothing Day*, and some people are here to try to persuade the rest of us to do just that ... to buy nothing. Lewis Castle is one of them. He's standing here in the main entrance of the shopping centre, holding a big sign saying 'Stop Shopping, Start Living.' Lewis, can you explain a little about what *Buy Nothing Day* means?

L Yes, of course. It's pretty simple, really. We're asking everyone to think about their spending habits and buy nothing at all for just one day.

I And what difference will that make?

L Well, the idea is to make people stop and think about what they're buying. When you really think about it, the idea of buying things as a way of spending your leisure time is crazy. We are all buying more things than we really need. We believe shopping makes us happy, but it doesn't. In fact, it can do the opposite if people end up owing a lot of money.

I Yes, I agree, that's a good point. People often buy things they don't really need or want.

L Exactly, it's amazing to realize that only 20% of the world's population is consuming over 80% of the Earth's natural resources. Does that seem fair to you? In countries like the UK, we all own far too much.

I Does it make any difference what you buy?

L Yes, that's part of it, too. We're trying to get people to think about the effect their buying choices have on the rest of the world. Something might seem a great bargain, but that could be because it's been made in a country where the workers aren't paid enough. In addition, most of the time we prefer people to buy locally because transporting goods by air has a harmful effect on the environment.

I But will it really make a difference if we stop shopping for just one day?

L Actually, most people don't understand how difficult it is to last 24 hours without spending any money. But you'll feel great if you achieve it.

I Are a lot of people taking part in *Buy Nothing Day* this year?

L Yes, and more and more do every year. I think it started in Canada more than twenty years ago, but now there are *Buy Nothing Day* movements in over 65 countries.

1.6)))

- 1 Can you explain a little about what *Buy Nothing Day* _____ (mean)?
- 2 When you really _____ (think) about it, the idea of buying things as a way of spending your leisure time is crazy.
- 3 We _____ (believe) shopping makes us happy, but it doesn't.
- 4 Yes, I _____ (agree), that's a good point.
- 5 We all _____ (own) far too much.
- 6 Most of the time we _____ (prefer) people to buy locally ...
- 7 Most people _____ (not/understand) how difficult it is ...

GRAMMAR FOCUS state verbs

Common state verbs include verbs for:

- how we think
think, know, believe, agree, prefer, understand, mean, imagine, realize, remember, forget, recognize
*Do you **believe** me? I don't **agree**.*
- what we feel
like, dislike, hate, love, want, feel (have an opinion), seem, appear, look, sound, need
*How **do** you **feel** about the news?*
- what we possess
have (got), belong, own, include
***Do** you **have** any money on you?*
- what we experience
be, see, hear, look, smell, taste, seem
*The flowers **smell** really nice.*

Choose the correct options.

- 1 A Shall we take a break from bargain hunting and have a coffee?
B That sounds / *is sounding* like a good idea.
- 2 A *Do you have* / *Are you having* a few minutes to help me?
B Yeah, sure.
- 3 A *I don't understand* / *'m not understanding*. What *do you mean* / *are you meaning* by 'trending'?
B Oh, don't worry. I'll explain later.
- 4 A *I try* / *'m trying* to download some photos. Can you help me?
B Sure. Do you know why it *isn't working* / *doesn't work*?
A *I think* / *'m thinking* the file's too big. It *looks* / *is looking* like that's what *causes* / *'s causing* the problem.

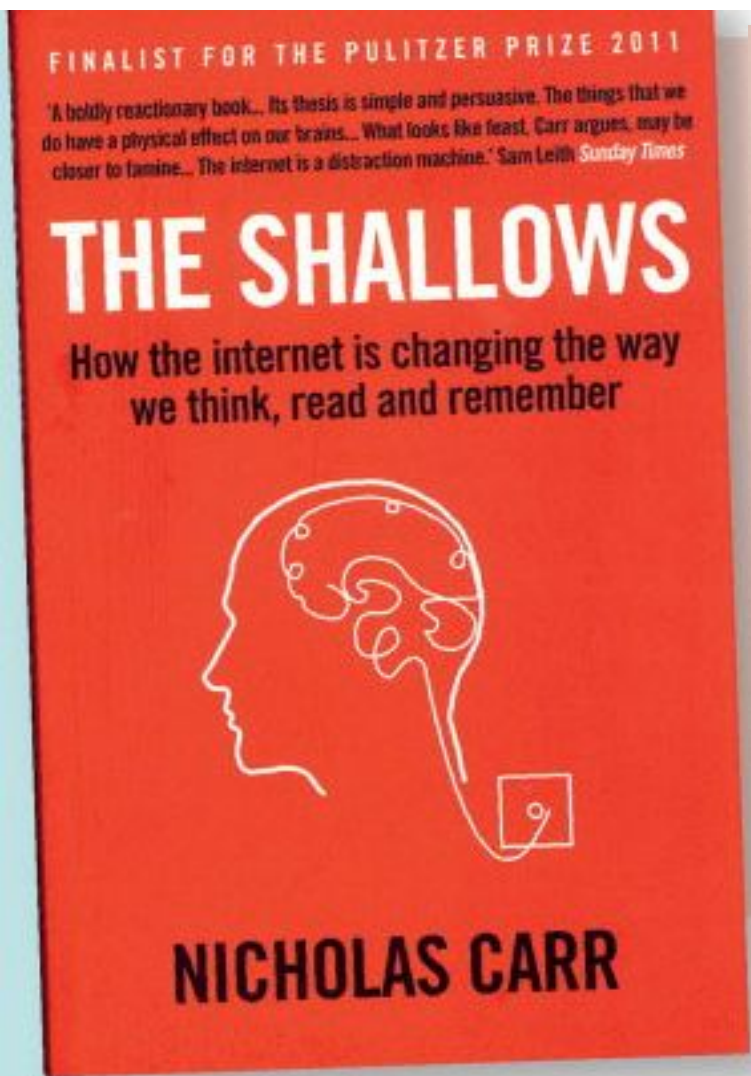
Complete 1-11 using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 This is Carlos. He comes (come) from Spain.
- 2 Peter is on his way. He _____ (come) by bus.
- 3 I _____ (see) your point, but I _____ (not/agree) with you.
- 4 You're quiet? What _____ (you/think) about?
- 5 What _____ (you/think) of the new James Bond film?
- 6 I _____ (imagine) you're very tired after your journey.
- 7 Jamal isn't here. He _____ (have) his lunch.
- 8 _____ (anybody/have) any questions?
- 9 The umbrella's not mine. I think it _____ (belong) to Annette.
- 10 Yuck! This soup _____ (taste) horrible. And it _____ (look) disgusting, too.
- 11 I _____ (look) for my keys. _____ (you/know) where they are?



How has the internet changed people's lives? Work with a partner and make a list of 5-10 things which have really changed since the internet was invented.

Look at the cover of a recent book about the internet. Do you think the author is positive about the effect of the internet or negative? Read the book description and check your ideas.



This is a fascinating book. We all know that the internet is changing the way we do things, but Carr believes that it is also changing the very way our brains work. With the printed book, he argues, our brains learnt to think deeply. In contrast, the internet encourages us to read small bits of information from lots of different places. We are becoming better and better at multitasking, but much worse at concentrating on one thing.



UNLOCK THE CODE

listening for key words

1.8)))

Key words carry the most important information. They are generally nouns and verbs and are usually spoken more loudly and clearly than other words. For example:

three times a **week**

I **send** a **lot** of **emails**

I **like** looking at **shopping websites**.

1 fascinating

2 all, internet, changing, do

3 Carr, believes, work

4 printed, brains, deeply

5 contrast, internet, small (bits), information, lots, different places

6 better, better, multitasking

7 worse, concentrating, one thing

1 This is a fascinating book.

2 We all know that the internet is changing the way we do things, ...

3 ... but Carr believes that it is also changing the very way our brains work.

4 With the printed book, he argues, our brains learnt to think deeply.

5 In contrast, the internet encourages us to read small bits of information from lots of different places.

6 We are becoming better and better at multitasking, ...

7 ... but much worse at concentrating on one thing.

Shopping and banking online is unsafe.
Looking at screens all day is bad for our eyes.
People will forget how to talk to each other.
People don't spend enough time outside.
Online information is not always reliable.
Hyperlinks in online texts are very distracting.
We are now using far more electricity to power all
our screens.
Multitasking online makes us work less effectively.

1.9))) Listen and complete these opinions about the internet with the missing key words.

- 1 Shopping and _____ is _____.
- 2 Looking at _____ all day is _____ for our _____.
- 3 People will _____ how to _____ to each other.
- 4 People don't _____ enough _____.
- 5 Online _____ is not always _____.
- 6 Hyperlinks in _____ are very distracting.
- 7 We are now using _____ more _____ to _____ all our _____.
- 8 Multitasking online makes us _____ less _____.

1.10))) Listen to part of a radio programme about the book. Which of the opinions in exercise 5 do you hear mentioned?

- 2 Looking at screens all day is bad for our eyes.
- 6 Hyperlinks in online texts are very distracting.
- 8 Multitasking online makes us work less effectively.

VOCABULARY FOCUS noun suffixes

- Suffixes often change the class of the word (verb, noun, adjective, etc.).

secure (adjective) → *security* (noun)

achieve (verb) → *achievement* (noun)

connect (verb) → *connection* (noun)

Notice how the spelling can change:

communicate → *communication*;

able → *ability*

- Sometimes the word class stays the same, but the meaning is different.

She is my best friend. (noun)

We have a close friendship. (noun)

Match nouns in the mind map to the definitions.

- 1 the state of having a job
- 2 connections with friends, family, etc.
- 3 change which makes something better
- 4 ways to deal with a problem
- 5 forming an opinion/making sensible decisions
- 6 a thing you have done successfully
- 7 having the chance to do something you want to do

ANSWERS

- 1 employment
- 2 relationship
- 3 improvement
- 4 solution
- 5 judgement
- 6 achievement
- 7 opportunity

Add noun suffixes to the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 The internet, and especially Skype, has improved _____ (communicate) with friends who live abroad.
- 2 The _____ (develop) of smartphones has made a huge difference to the way we all access information.
- 3 I am always extremely careful about my personal _____ (secure) online.
- 4 I think I'm lucky because I've always had a very close _____ (relation) with my sister.
- 5 I don't have gym _____ (member) because I can't afford the time.
- 6 Many people think the _____ (govern) should have some control over the _____ (inform) we can get on the internet.
- 7 The internet offers great opportunities for finding _____ (employ).

THE LATEST CONSUMER TREND: GUILT-FREE BRANDS

Diamond ring



Tesla electric car



Fairphone



1.11))) Listen to a radio programme about guilt-free brands and check your ideas.

LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING asking for and giving opinions

Giving your opinion

As far as I'm concerned, ... I'm convinced/certain ...

If you ask me ... Personally ...

Talking about other people's opinions

Some people say that ... According to (someone), ...

Asking for someone's opinion

1 Negative questions (we expect someone to agree)

Don't you think ...? Shouldn't ...?

2 Other ways:

What do you think (about) ...? How do you feel about ...?

What are your views on ...?

Complete the phrases from the conversation.

1.12))) Listen and check your answers.

- 1 So, Jem, what do you _____ the idea?
- 2 Well, as _____, anything which makes people think ...
- 3 There's a lot more awareness, but _____ it would be better if ...?
- 4 I'm _____ that if people really understood ...
- 5 Well, _____ the people who make Fairphone ...
- 6 If you _____, we have to give people the option ...

Cheap clothes can be made using children working in poor conditions. So should we stop buying cheap clothes, or simply be more careful about finding out how and where they were made?

Comments

IM

Ian Martin:

Every1 shld just buy less.

CO

Cristina Oliveira:

2 keep up w/ fashion u need 2 buy cheap clothes. Can't afford expensive ones.

PJ

Pippa Jones:

Ppl need jobs, esp in poorer places. If u don't buy, they don't work.

JB

James Brook:

Some ppl can't afford 2 pay higher prices 4 clothes.

YW

Yumi Watanabe:

Difficult 2 know which companies r OK 2 buy from.

TASK Write your own comment on the post, using informal language.